



Staff preps golf course for play

The fairway grass is still brown, but warm temperatures will add some green soon.

Page 9

Fort Riley Post

Rain will fall on JCHS musical

Junction City High School production tries something different this year.

Page 7



Friday, March 19, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 47, No. 11

Around The Army

Fort Stewart: Georgia law protects Soldiers

The Frontline at Fort Stewart, Ga., reported March 16 that the state general assembly passed a payday loan bill that gives law enforcement the teeth needed to take a bite out of unscrupulous lenders taking advantage of Soldiers and working Georgians.

Read more about this and other Fort Stewart news on the Internet at www.zwire.com/site/news.

1st Armored Division: Soldiers assess progress in Iraq

The European Edition of Stars and Stripes reported March 16 the comments of Soldiers asked to assess what progress has been made in the wake of war phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The paper reported: "With the first anniversary of the conflict's launch just days away (March 19), most major combat operations have ceased but a low-intensity guerrilla war continues with no distinguishable end in sight. Much has been accomplished and much remains to be done on the road to democracy."

Read more about this and other U.S. military news in Europe and the Pacific on the Internet at www.estripes.com.

Fort Rucker: Post's first lady testifies in House

Susan Sinclair, spouse of Brig. Gen. E.J. Sinclair, commanding general of the U.S. Aviation Center and Fort Rucker, represented Army family members Feb. 25 when she addressed members of the U.S. House of Representatives about the quality of life for military families.

Read more about this and other Fort Rucker news on the Internet at www.armyflter.com.

Fort Belvoir:



Eagle/Biggs
Zhene Jarrett and Cache Jackson hug each other outside Potomac Yards Movie Theater after viewing "The Passion of the Christ" as part of a chapel-sponsored outreach.

Church group tries to reach out

The Fort Belvoir Eagle reported March 11 that 400 members of the post community and their guests traveled to Potomac Yards Movie Theater to view "The Passion of the Christ."

The post's Contemporary Worship Congregation spearheaded the trip, dubbed "Operation Passion," as a platform for further teen discussions.

Read more about this and other Fort Belvoir news on the Internet at www.belvoir.eagle.com.

Civilians' back pay coming soon

Defense finance service begins processing pay increases effective Jan. 11

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The Defense Finance and Accounting Service began March 13 to process the retroactive pay increase for federal general sched-

ule employees directed by the executive order signed by President George W. Bush on March 3. The retroactive pay increase was effective Jan. 11.

As the personnel actions authorizing the increase are received from the responsible civilian per-

sonnel offices, DFAS will process the retroactive pay increases during its routine nightly civilian pay system personnel updates.

Processing the retroactive pay increase for several specific groups of federal employees paid by DFAS will proceed according

to the following schedule. This schedule is contingent upon DFAS having received and successfully processed the civilian personnel actions.

For the pay period ending March 20:

-- Executive Office of the Pres-

ident, overseas employees paid on the second Thursday payday, overseas employees paid on the first Friday payday, Navy shipyard employees and most other defense agencies.

For the pay period ending

See Back pay, Page 2

'Can do' clinic

Soldiers win own battles through PT

By Gary Skidmore

Command Information Officer

A 'can do' spirit fills Irwin Army Community Hospital's Physical Therapy Clinic. Spc. Niles Brush, of the 977th Military Police Company, strains to hold himself up between the parallel workout bars. His face grimaces as he forces his mangled leg forward, then places his weight on it to take his first step without crutches since June 11, 2003. An Iraqi trucker trying to run his roadblock crushed Brush's leg.

Brush groans from the pain as he takes a second step. His arms strain from the weight of his 6-foot frame that is unable to hold him up. He doesn't complain; he shows no anger — only relief after taking the two small steps.

Sgt. 1st Class Telva Reid, a senior personnel sergeant with Headquarters, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, still can't believe she got wounded.

"My job didn't require me to leave the compound on a daily basis," Reid said. "I only went out when it was absolutely necessary."

Reid was wounded when an Improvised Explosive Device hit her vehicle. Her foot was broken in three places. Now, she comes to the clinic every day at 9 a.m. Reid's husband, Rogelio, is always by her side, offering support and encouragement.

Sitting with the wounded leg extended, Reid bends her ankle to expand an elastic band.

Visibly pained, she grits her teeth. Her husband looks into her teary eyes and says, "Do it again."

"You don't go to war and expect to get wounded," said Staff Sgt. David Chatham, of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry. "But you don't come home and sit around and whine about your injuries, either."

See Therapy, Page 3



Post/Skidmore
Spec. Aaron Brush goes through therapy exercises under the guidance of Capt. Zack Solomon. It was the first Brush had walked on his own since his accident.

IED kills more Soldiers in Iraq

Staff report

Two Fort Riley Soldiers were killed March 11 when their vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in Fallujah, Iraq.

The soldiers were assigned to 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Staff Sgt. Joe L. Dunigan Jr., 37, of Belton, Texas, was a section leader for Company B.

He joined the Army in October 1992 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since February 2002.

He also was stationed at Fort Riley from 1995 to 1998. Dunigan deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

Spec. Christopher K. Hill, 26, of Ventura, Calif., was an infantryman in Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

He served on active duty from September 1998 to August 2002. He rejoined the Army and was stationed at Fort Riley in April 2003.

Hill deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

To date, 30 Fort Riley Soldiers have died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Joe Dunigan Jr.



Christopher Hill

Soldiers earn medals for bravery in action

1st Battalion, 41st Infantry NCOs get 'stars'

Staff report

Silver Star

The Army's fourth highest decoration awarded for gallantry with marked distinction while serving in action against an enemy of the United States.

Bronze Star

The Army's eighth highest decoration awarded to those who distinguish themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement or service while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.

Two Fort Riley Soldiers who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom received medals March 12 for valor they demonstrated against the enemy during conflict.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, presented the medals during a ceremony at Barlow Theater in front of about 500 soldiers of the two Soldiers' battalion.

Sgt. 1st Class David B. Wardlow received the Silver Star and Staff Sgt. Edward C. Pennell received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device. Both Soldiers were assigned to 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, when they earned

the medals.

Wardlow earned his Silver Star April 5 during a deadly battle in Karbala, Iraq. His section and supporting infantry squad came under heavy enemy fire. Many men were pinned down by the fire and Wardlow came to their aid by destroying two enemy gun trucks and several enemy forces.

Upon hearing that enemy fire had hit his platoon leader's track and had caused nine casualties, Wardlow took control of his platoon and executed the rescue of all injured Soldiers. He put himself in direct line of enemy rocket propelled grenades and AK-47 assault rifle fire in an attempt to shield his men on the ground, sav-

See Medals, Page 4



Post/Heronemus

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy (left), commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, congratulates Sgt. 1st Class David B. Wardlow March 12 after presenting him the Silver Star and Meritorious Service Medal for his service in Iraq.





Post news in brief

'In Step' moves to temporary slot

The post's "In Step with Fort Riley" television program that airs on WBW Channel 13 in Topeka has moved to a new time slot temporarily. It can now be seen at 10:30 a.m. March 20, March 27 and April 3.

Channel 13 made the temporary move in time slot to accommodate its coverage of the Big 12 basketball tournament and most of the NCAA basketball tournament games.

"In Step with Fort Riley" will return to its normal time slot, 7 a.m. Sundays, after the NCAA tournament.

Center offers unit mailroom classes

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, building 319, will offer an introduction to unit mailroom operations class from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 25 and again on April 7. Pre-enrollment is required. To enroll, call 239-5411.

Each commander who has a unit mailroom must appoint a unit postal officer and alternate unit postal officer. Each mailroom also must have a primary unit mail clerk and at least two alternates.

Prospective mail clerks are required to attend a class and bring with them a copy of their memorandum of on-the-job training (20 days OJT period is required). Unit postal officers not involved in mail handling duties only need to attend the class; they do not have to test. Unit postal officers involved in mail handling duties must have a minimum of 20 days OJT and will have to take the unit mail clerk test.

Agency updates job list on Web site

The Installation Management Agency recently updated the employment section of IMA Online to include a central listing of current IMA job announcements. These announcements were extracted from the Army Civilian Personnel listing. The Web site is: www.ima.army.mil/employment.asp

To view current IMA announcements, follow these steps:

1. Click on current vacancies. Vacancies are arranged by closing date and grade.

2. For information about specific vacancies, highlight the announcement number in the left hand column and copy.

3. Click on the following Web site: Army's Vacancy Announcements <https://cpol-wapp.belvoir.army.mil/public/vabSelfNom/index.jsp>.

4. Paste the announcement number in the area at the bottom of the page where it says Announcement #.

5. For more information about vacancies, contact the person or office listed in the specific vacancy announcement.

Quarters retention briefs mandatory

Effective April 1, all Soldiers requesting retention of government quarters must attend a retention briefing. The briefing will be given as part of the Permanent Change of Station briefing in the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264, at 1:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

Clinic conducts cancer screenings

The Combined Surgical Clinic at Irwin Army Community Hospital conducts monthly breast and colorectal cancer screening clinics in March.

Breast cancer screening clinic appointments require a referral from a primary care provider.

Colorectal cancer screening clinic does not require a referral for anyone 50 or older. Beneficiaries should contact the Combined Surgical Clinic at 239-7163 or TRICARE at 784-1200 for an appointment.

Back pay

continued from page 1

April 3:

-- Department of Energy employees

-- Three groups, comprised primarily of Army, Air Force and Navy employees, will be processed during the course of two pay periods because of the large number of employees in each of those databases.

About one half of the employees in those groups will be processed during each of the two pay periods.

In order to conduct these large pay system updates in a reliable manner, specific agencies and major commands within those agencies have been selected for processing each pay period.

All employees within the major commands selected will be processed during the specified pay period, provided that the DFAS civilian pay system has received and successfully processed the employees' personnel actions.

Employees in these three groups can expect to see the retroactive adjustments according to the following schedule:

Army stateside employees for the pay period ending March 20:

-- Army Corps of Engineers, National Guard units, Army Medical Command and

-- Army Training and Doctrine Command

For the pay period ending April 3:

-- All other Army major commands

Air Force stateside employees for the pay period ending March 20:

-- Air Force Materiel Command, Air National Guard units and other Air Force employees in this database

Pay Period Ending April 3rd:

-- All other Air Force major

commands

Navy stateside employees for pay period ending March 20:

-- Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Air Systems Command, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, U. S. Marine Corps and other Navy employees in this database.

Pay period ending April 3:

-- All other Navy major commands

Some personnel actions may have been processed during this retroactive period. These are referred to as intervening personnel actions.

If an intervening personnel action has been processed for an employee during the Jan. 11 to mid- or late-March timeframe, the payroll system's retroactive process will calculate and pay from Jan. 11 and stop at the date of the intervening personnel action.

If there was more than one intervening action, the retroactive process will stop at the date of the first action.

The responsible civilian personnel office must process pay corrections for the intervening action and send them to DFAS.

The payroll system will then pick up and complete the retroactive processing for the remainder of the prior pay periods.

This will happen at a later date than the implementation dates set out in the schedule.

It may take several months for all of the civilian personnel offices to process corrections to these intervening actions.

Increases for Federal Wage System employees will be processed during the pay period in which the personnel action is received from civilian personnel offices.

At this time, personnel actions for employees have not been received.

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Post news in brief

Center to offer mail training classes

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, building 319, will offer a class from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March to train primary and alternate official mail handlers at post units and activities.

Pre-enrollment is required. To enroll, call 239-5411 or 239-5022.

Training requirements include lessons on private express statutes, non-mailable material, mail classification, special postal services, international mail, postage and fees, penalties for private use, protection of mail, mail surveys, addressing mail and cost saving methods.

Tax center offers help filing returns

Soldiers, retirees and their families can get help filing income tax returns from workers at the Fort Riley Tax Center in building 7034 on Bullard Street behind 1st Brigade Headquarters on Custer Hill.

The center opens from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To schedule an appointment, call 239-1040.

Help preparing and filing tax returns electronically is offered free. Electronically filing returns allows the filer to have refunds deposited directly into his or her bank account in about 10 days.

To use the center, a person needs last year's tax return, this year's W-2 and 1099 forms and any other proof of income.

Leadership training offered on post

Fort Riley University offers Leadership Skills Enhancement Courses to soldiers, family members and Department of the Army civilian employees for free.

LSEC classes normally meet during the duty day. The next classes are April 12 through May 21. To enroll, see an education counselor in building 217, 7604 or 7656.

Therapy

continued from page 1

Chatham had his right leg amputated below the knee from injuries he sustained while in Iraq. He spends several hours every day at the clinic and said he hopes he can stay in the Army until he retires.

"I have a lot to offer yet. I know I won't be infantry anymore, but I can be retrained and I know I can still do a good job somewhere in the Army," Chatham said.

"Most people want to get better quickly," said Capt. Zack Solomon, chief of the Physical Therapy Clinic. "Soldiers have a good work ethic. They're used to doing physical training every day. Coming here and doing their exercises isn't that different."

Solomon and his staff — three therapists, four physical therapy technicians, one volunteer and one student from the University of Kansas — stay busy with the current workload and anticipate a much larger patient load as units start returning home.

"The patients we were seeing before they deployed will be coming back. It's going to get busy,"

Solomon said.

Pfc. Adam Zaremba, of Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, comes to the clinic every day after having more than nine operations and his right leg amputated below the knee.

"I want to get on with this," Zaremba said. "I'm in a hurry now. I want to go to college this year and want to be home this summer so I can get started with my new life."

Zaremba received a new prosthesis recently and for the first time since he stepped on a land mine July 16, 2003, is walking without crutches.

"War injuries are much more time sensitive," Solomon said.

"Wounded soldiers require long-term rehabilitation as opposed to an ACL injury which requires six to eight weeks of physical therapy. War injuries require as much as a year for recovery. Wounded soldiers need to be patient."

Solomon personally oversees Chatham and Zaremba's care.

They are the only amputees at the clinic. "I worked with amputees at Walter Reed Army Medical Cen-

ter," Solomon said.

Zaremba is well on his way to achieving his goal of being out of the Army and in school this fall. "Two days after Adam received his new prosthesis, he was skipping down the hallway in the hospital," Solomon said.

Chatham, Zaremba, Brush and Reid agreed they were doing the job they signed up to do when they got wounded.

"Someone has to do the job," Chatham said. "The price was my leg."

"Knowing what I know now, I don't think I'd say I'd do it again," Zaremba said. "But I'm not mad. I don't have time for that. I'm lucky to be alive. I don't regret what has happened. I don't regret being in the Army or going to Iraq. I'm just ready to get on with my life."



Staff Sgt. David Chatham works out in physical therapy.



Capt. Zack Solomon reviews records of Spc. Aaron Brush.

College program expands offerings

Master's courses added

By Larry Brockson
Program Administrator

Central Michigan University at Fort Riley plans to add two new concentrations to its master of science in administration program — information resource management and leadership.

Existing MSA programs include general, human resources and public administration.

CMU opened off-campus centers dedicated to working adult students at Fort Riley in 1988.

Registration for local classes begins March 22 and runs through April 12. Classes are open to all military and Department of Defense personnel and their families.

The College of Extended Learning at CMU offers off-campus graduate programs designed to meet the unique needs of working adults.

The university designed its off-campus classes to be flexible and timesaving. It features weekend classes, year-round scheduling, compressed terms to shorten the time it takes to complete a degree and home delivery of textbooks and library materials.

Course options include classroom-based instruction, print-based learning packages and online courses.

CMU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

For information on enrolling, call 784-4402 or visit the Web site at www.cel.cmich.edu.

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Post/Heronemus
Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, congratulates Staff Sgt. Edward C. Pennell after pinning on the Bronze Star Medal Pennell won for his actions in Iraq.

Medals

continued from page 1

ing the lives of his men as they fought through the city.

Pennell earned his Bronze Star while engaged by a least eight enemy personnel firing AK-47s and RPGs on March 3 near As Samawah, Iraq.

Pennell identified and destroyed enemy forces before they could fire any RPG rounds, allowing his section to return to the platoon unscathed.

The next morning, Pennell's checkpoint received sporadic enemy mortar and small arms fire. He moved his Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle away from the mortar fire while successfully engaging and destroying enemy personnel near a suspected paramilitary headquarters.

On April 4, Pennell was the trailing vehicle in the platoon when an enemy ambush erupted. Pennell again fired into the enemy positions and, despite narrow misses by four RPGs and impacting AK-47 rounds, destroyed at least two enemy trucks and personnel.

Wardlow also received the Army's Meritorious Service Medal for exceptional service as operations sergeant major and platoon sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 41st Inf., from Dec. 1, 2002 to March 12, 2004.

Both Soldiers accepted their medals with visible humility. Both gave credit to the Soldiers with them at the time of their heroism, stating they couldn't have earned the medals alone, that the Soldiers deserved the medals

as much as they did.

"We didn't really do anything differently. We just had to do our job," Pennell said, thinking back about what he had done to earn the Bronze Star. "The whole platoon deserves it."

Wardlow, who also fought in the first Gulf War, likened what he and his platoon experienced April 5 to what the Soldiers portrayed in the movie "Black Hawk Down" experienced in Somalia.

"We were on foot fighting all the way through," Wardlow said.

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Army News Service

SEOUL, Korea — The Army has a new incentive program to encourage Soldiers to extend their tours of duty in Korea for an additional year.

The program, titled the Assignment Incentive Pay program, adds a \$300 per month to paychecks if Soldiers in or en route to Korea sign up for an additional 12-month tour there.

The AIP is a one-year program offered to all Soldiers — officer, warrant officer and enlisted — to promote stability, predictability and improved readiness in Korea while reducing personnel turbulence Armywide, officials said.

Soldiers can apply for AIP on the 8th Personnel Command Web site at <http://www-8perscom.korea.army.mil>.

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Foundation offers low-cost, free lodging for families

Staff report

A private organization offers "comfort homes" for relatives of Soldiers recuperating in Army medical facilities located away from the family home, if those families need some assistance so they can be with their recovering Soldiers.

Fisher House Foundation builds the houses on the grounds of major military and Veterans Administration medical centers and allows families to live in them for fees that average less than \$10 per family per day, with many locations offering rooms free.

Fisher House officials report the organization serves more than 7,000 families annually and has made more than 1.5 million days of lodging available military families since the program began in 1990.

The organization offers its housing support to the families of military personnel wounded in action or those seriously ill.

The foundation offers comfort houses at the following locations: — David Grant U.S. Air Force Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

— Naval Medical Center, San Diego, Calif.
— Denver VA Medical Center, Colo.

— Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.
— Bay Pines VA Medical Cen-

ter, St. Petersburg, Fla.

— West Palm Beach VA Medical Center, Fla.

— Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Ga.

— Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu

— Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

— National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.
— Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Minn.

— Keesler Medical Center, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

— Stratton VA Medical Center, Albany, N.Y.

— Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, N.C.

— Cincinnati VA Medical Center, Ohio

— Wright-Patterson Medical Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

— Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

— Darnall Army Community Hospital, Fort Hood, Texas

— Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

— William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, Texas
— Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Va.

— Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Wash.

— Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany

For more information or to apply for assistance, visit www.fisherhouse.org on the Internet.

Soldier receives patriot grant

Special to the Post

DALLAS -- Spc. James Matthew Fair, 22, of Fort Riley, has been selected as a grant recipient of the Fallen Patriot Fund.

The fund was established April 16, 2003, by the Mark Cuban Foundation to help families of U.S. military personnel killed or seriously injured during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fair will receive \$60,000 from the foundation to assist with living expenses after he was injured while attempting to diffuse a bomb in Iraq Nov. 12, 2003.

As a result of the explosion, he is blind in both eyes, had both arms amputated and has endured traumatic brain injury.

Fair has a wife, son and two daughters.

Fair was assigned to Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

Other sources

Defense Commissary Agency's "Gift of Groceries" program, www.commissaries.com/certifcheck/index.htm

Army and Air Force Exchange Service's "Gifts from the Homefront" program, www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm

Veterans of Foreign Wars' Operation Uplink, www.operationuplink.org/

The USO's Operation USA Care Package, www.usocares.org/home.htm

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Commentary

Friday, March 19, 2004

Fort Riley Post

Page 5

Mother's point of view

Community needs child support group

By Tricia Meyers

Due to the recent death of my 2-year-old daughter, I have looked for a grief support group that my two surviving children can utilize to help them deal with their feelings.

After many attempts to seek assistance on this matter, I am disappointed to find there are no support groups in the local area for children who have deceased siblings.

The closest I have been able to come to finding a support group for children is at Fort Riley Elementary. The school offers support to children who have deployed parents.

My two surviving children were attending this support group when my 2-year old died. The student support monitor who facilitates that group suggested that I get assistance from personnel who deal with grief counseling to better aid my children.

Children need help

After doing research on children in dealing with grief, I came across a clinical associate professor at New York University's School of Medicine who states, "Children and teens are most at risk for problems, most likely in the form of depression."

Depending on the age of the child, some of the problems that can occur are destructive outbursts, withdrawing from friends and family and repeated statements about wanting to hurt themselves to be able to reunite with

the deceased sibling.

Children and teens can be assisted in how to cope with grief in different ways, depending on the age of the child. A few examples of how to help children with grief would be: to ensure they know they are not at fault for the death, to encourage them to talk and ask questions and to find out what they are thinking about, and to correct any misconceptions or misinformation, and most importantly, to tell the truth about the death of the deceased.

Others voice a need

In speaking with numerous people who have deceased children, one thing is consistently talked about: children need grief counseling just as much as adults do. Implementing a grief support group in the local community would greatly benefit the families of this area. It could promote healthy ways to deal with grief if facilitated by certified personnel in the mental health field who have training in grief counseling and know how to assist children through difficult times.

The Compassionate Friends, a network of bereaved parents and siblings, helps others who assist families in moving forward "to positive resolution of grief ... and to provide information to help others be supportive."

Children need parental support and opportunities to be heard, acknowledged and understood if they are going to successfully work through the grief process. The closest chapters of The Com-

passionate Friends are in Salina and Topeka.

From research I did on The Compassionate Friends Web site, I found that children need assistance in the loss of a sibling. Children could better learn how to cope by attending regular meetings with a support group facilitated by certified personnel so they can know that life can continue even though there is a void in their lives from the death of a loved one.

In my attempt to locate assistance for my surviving children, I have encountered several organizations in other states that have been able to provide grief counseling to children and adults at no cost to federal, state, local governments or insurance companies.

Those organizations are able to help others by using donations given to them. A few of those organizations are "Amanda the Panda" in Ohio, "The Good Grief Center" of north-central Washington, and "The Compassionate Friends" with 600 chapters nationwide.

Training available

Someone might argue that there is a lack of certified personnel to facilitate meetings. Volunteers in the immediate area, such as priests or counselors in local schools, hospitals, or mental health clinics, can facilitate the meetings.

In the research I conducted, if there is a lack of certified personnel to run a meeting, training is available for someone who wants

to help but needs guidance on how to do so. This can be done through training material sent from an organization such as The Compassionate Friends.

The only other alternative solution to the implementation of a local grief support group for children would be individual counseling done through mental health services or no counseling at all for children in need.

Parents face own grief

Parents cannot always be counted on to initiate this counseling because, as stated on "The Good Grief Center" Web site, "following the death of a family member, a parent may be unable to comfort the child because of his or her own grief," and might not realize what help the child needs.

The cost of counseling one on one through mental health services may not be affordable.

Utilizing grief support groups that function with the aid of donations, a family may be able to donate funds within their budget to get much needed help at the same time.

I hope in my addressing this issue of grief support groups needed in the local area that others who share in my dilemma will come forth and assist me in creating a local meeting place for our surviving children.

I may be enlisting help to assist my two surviving children, but I will always be a mother of three.

Tricia Meyers
784-2887

Grunt *By Wayne Uhden*

THREE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS STATEMENTS IN THE ARMY:



Holiday safety

Keep training holiday weekend accident-free

Spring is in the air and as we prepare to take a well-deserved break, we need to continually think about safety.

During this training holiday weekend, safety must be our No. 1 priority. To ensure the safe return of all, commanders and directors at a minimum must brief soldiers and civilian workers on the following subjects prior to being released for the holiday weekend.

-- POV safety, to include prevention of automobile and motorcycle accidents.

-- Seat belts, stressing the importance of using seat belts.

-- Dangers of speeding and not driving while fatigued or intoxicated.

An equally important area that leaders should aggressively focus on is suicide prevention. We must

be vigilant in our efforts to identify the telltale signs of suicide. I expect leaders to fully understand and practice the ABC's of suicide prevention -- Awareness, Becoming involved and Compassion.

Leaders must remain personally involved in their Soldiers' off-duty activities. Good leaders provide workable control measures that mitigate risk and identify potentially unsafe activities that their Soldiers have planned and encourage safety first.

I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Lastly, during this long weekend, we must take time to remember our friends and comrades still in harm's way. Their sacrifice for the protection of our nation must never be overlooked.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy
Commanding General

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Unique training preps unit for convoys

82nd Medical Company Soldiers praise realistic, live-fire course in Kuwaiti desert

By Aaron J. Orr

82nd Medical Company

Real-world convoy and close-quarters marksmanship training with live ammunition recently taught 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) Soldiers in Kuwait how to take out enemy threats from a moving vehicle and close-quarters combat.

Driving through the desert in a convoy of about 60 vehicles going 35-plus mph down a narrow, winding dirt road filled with bumps and holes presents its own challenge.

Lining both sides of the road with a mock village loaded with realistically painted wooden villagers, real vehicles, fruit stands and "bad guy" pop-up targets every 50 to 200 meters makes for a close-to-real training scenario.

Add to the fray an occasional mock improvised explosive device attack and you have the makings of what some 82nd Med. Co. Soldiers called the best training they had ever experienced.

Nearly every Soldier praised the life-like training upon their return from the three-day, two-night bivouac. Cpl. Krzysztof Sobiesiak, a fueler, said, "This was the best training I've had in six years in the military."

Spc. Scott Donley, a flight medic, said, "I think most Soldiers enjoyed (the training) more because it was real-world, and (the trainers) treated you like adults."

Some excitement about the training came because "they teach you how to shoot while driving," fueler Pfc. James Clayton said.

Soldiers were taught how to

Convoy attacked en route

A convoy of 82nd Medical Company Soldiers was attacked Feb. 27 while driving through Baghdad with an Improvised Explosive Device. The Soldiers sustained no injuries and only one Humvee belonging to an aviation brigade from Florida accompanying the Fort Riley unit sustained minor damage. The convoy continued to its destination without further incident.

— Sgt. Aaron Orr, 82nd Medical Company

switch weapons with their passenger if the driver's weapon jams so the passenger can fix the malfunction and both Soldiers can continue defending themselves and their vehicle.

"You shoot out of the actual vehicle you drive, not the back of some five-ton [truck]," Clayton said.

"Your weapon is loaded at all times," Sobiesiak said. "You don't get constantly rodded on and off the range. ... You are the safety. If you want to shoot single, you shoot single. If you want to shoot three-round bursts, you shoot three-round bursts."

The training scenarios in Kuwait gave each Soldier a big

picture idea of what they are supposed to do when attacked in a convoy or if called upon to participate in close quarters combat.

At one point they found themselves dismounted, standing literally shoulder-to-shoulder, firing live rounds while advancing on pop-up targets located virtually everywhere, just as they might in a true combat environment.

"You're actually walking and shooting. You're not standing still shooting at the same target popping up in the same place every time," Clayton said.

Former U.S. servicemembers teach the course. "They are [almost] all ex-Rangers, Delta and Special Forces," Sobiesiak said. "You know these guys know what they're doing."

The eight-kilometer driving course replicates an Iraqi town

and tests Soldiers' ability to drive, to identify targets, to shoot accurately and to respond to simulated combat casualties while under attack.

Several Soldiers had expressed nervousness about the convoy they will make into Iraq. "Some of my guys ... had a lack of confidence," Sgt. Mary Euler, a fueler, said. "Now they're looking forward to the 15-hour convoy [to Balad, Iraq]."

"I know now I can go shoot anything out there. I know I'm happy I got (this training). The guys I'm going with are happy they got it. We know we can fight and defend ourselves. ... Everybody was more than satisfied with this training. ... I'm 99 percent sure we're going to make it through this convoy without any problems," Sobiesiak said.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, March 19, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Community news briefs

Latino organization plans orientation

The Geary County Latino Organization, Inc., invited Steven Smith, an investment representative of a Junction City business, to give an orientation about retirement plans.

The orientation offers club members and others an opportunity to become informed and obtain answers to questions about personal savings and investments.

The orientation will begin at 6:45 p.m. March 24 in the Twelfth Street Community Center in Junction City.

For more information, call Nelva Perez at 762-2703 or Carmen Coates at 463-5822.

Junction City group to host meeting

The Junction City Human Relations Commission will host a town hall meeting at 1 p.m. March 27 in the Junction City Municipal Building.

The meeting will address war effects on Junction City. Soldiers and family members are invited to attend and talk with commissioners about this matter.

For more information, send e-mail hrccommission@jcks.com or call 238-3103, extension 121.

Annual spring bazaar approaches

The Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club members are in the final stages of coordinating the club's annual spring bazaar, which will offer lots of crafts, food and fun for the kids.

The bazaar is scheduled to be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 3 and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 4 in hangar 817 at Marshall Army Airfield.

Anyone interested in being a volunteer or any vendors interested in having a booth or display area at the bazaar should call Sherri Weber at (785) 537-7781.

Family programs plan Easter hunt

The Exceptional Family Member Program and the New Parent Support Program will host an Easter egg hunt from 10 a.m. to noon April 3 at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264 on Custer Hill.

Families intending to participate should RSVP by March 24. Call 239-9435 and ask for EFMP or NPSP.

Christian concert, seminar changed

The Tim Kaufman conservative contemporary music concert and seminar for men has been rescheduled for April 23-24. Kaufman will perform in concert at 7 p.m. April 23 in the Morris Hill Chapel on post and conduct the seminar beginning at 9 a.m. the following day at the chapel. The concert and seminar were originally scheduled for April 16-17.

Kaufman was the solo singer for Jack Wyrzten Ministries for nearly 10 years and began his full-time concert and seminar ministry in 1982.

For more information, call Don Ericson at 239-0979.

Women's Day program changes

Because of erroneous information provided a staff writer, the Post reported recently that Daphne Maxwell, a civilian employee on post would perform at the Women's Equality Day Program. She will not sing at the program.

Hospital changes records policy

Special to the Post

Irwin Army Community Hospital will soon implement a closed records system to comply with an Aug. 28, 2003, directive from the Office of the Surgeon General.

Similar to procedures used by civilian providers, the policy was

implemented to safeguard patient's medical records, improve the availability of the medical records and guarantee patients receive quality care. All military treatment facilities must maintain 95 percent availability for medical records at all times.

In time, patients will no longer

have to wait in line at the Outpatient Records section before an appointment; they will be able to go directly to the clinic where they have their scheduled appointment. Capt. Geraldine Lubkeman, chief of the Patient Administration Division, Master Sgt. David Heidebrink, noncommissioned

officer in charge of the Patient Administration Division, and a team of other members are in the middle stages of fully implementing the policy at IACH.

For patients who need treatment in an off-post civilian facility, a referral cell of employees is being created. The referral cell

staff will make copies of all pertinent information needed for the patient's referred appointment. The patient will no longer have to worry about losing their medical records when taking them outside IACH.

See Records, Page 8

Musical rains



Comic relief lead Cosmo Brown (left) played by Michael Castile; female lead Kathy Seldon, played by Morgan Glessner; and silent screen star Don Lockwood, played by Mardell Maxwell; to sing during rehearsal March 22 in the Junction City High School production of "Singin' in the Rain."

Post/Heronemus

Main Cast

Michael Castile is Cosmo Brown
Crystal Palmer is Lina Lamont
Mardell Maxwell is Don Lockwood
Morgan Glessner is Kathy Seldon
Molly-Kate Anderson is Zora Bailey
Lindsay Sherbert is Zelda Zanders
Tim Hitzfeld is J. Cumberland Sprendrill III
Samantha Clemons is Olga Mara
Justin Black is Olga's escort
Rachel Barjas is Mary Margeret, the policeman and the hairdresser
Cameron Lee is Sugar Daddy, the villain and the third assistant director
Michael Brooks is R.F. Simpson
Esther Mulch is Mrs. Simpson
Sakai Dozier is Roscoe Dexter
Wade Ervin is young Don, the butler and the male diction teacher
Ramone Lowe is young Cosmo and the first assistant director
Lory Dawson is the lady-in-waiting
Mardell Floberg is Rod
Tim Morris is the second assistant director
James Phillips is the stage hand
Maura Wery is the wardrobe mistress
Justin Black is the production singer
Chris Hugemeister is Sid Phillips
Erin Barnes is Miss Dinsmore

Supporting cast

Joe Billings, Rindi Zimmerman, Danielle Paul, Ashley Westover, Stephanie Taylor, James Phillips, Samantha Rigby, Jessica Shaw, Leila Dideon and Edisha Coleman

Principal dancers

Jennifer Cuban, Megan Kausler, Lauren Stewart, Rindi Zimmerman, Stephanie Taylor, Sharon Ramos, Lory Dawson, Samantha Rigby and Jessica Shaw.

Chorus

Tim Hitzfeld, Samantha Clemons, Justin Black, Rachel Barjas, Cameron Lee, Esther Mulch, Wade Ervin, Ramone Lowe, Lory Dawson, Mardell Floberg, James Phillips, Maura Wery, Chris Hugemeister, Erin Barnes, Melissa Jamison, Rachel Fridley, Sara Appenheimer, Christine Chun, Rindi Zimmerman, Danielle Paul, Ashley Westover, Stephanie Taylor, Samantha Rigby, Jessica Shaw, Leila Dideon, Edisha Coleman, Kimberly Timms, Molly-Kate Anderson and Michael Brooks

Justin Black (center) finds himself surrounded by dancers while singing during a big production number being filmed for one of the new talkie movies being shot in Hollywood.

Post/Heronemus

Cast, crew includes Fort Riley kids

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Making it rain on the stage at Junction City High School posed the biggest technical challenge music director John Luce and his associates faced in producing "Singin' in the Rain."

The curtain goes up on the last two performances of this year's musical at 7:30 p.m. March 19 and 20 with a cast and crew about half of whom are students from military families, Luce said.

By dress rehearsal time March 15, it appeared the rain would fall inside Warren Settles Auditorium and Mardell Maxwell, who reprises the Gene Kelly movie role in the local stage production, would get wet while dancing and singing.

The rain will fall from a plastic pipe cut from end to end and spread slightly by plastic spoons inserted in the cut. The spoons let just enough water fall on a disguised trough that drains the water through a hole in the stage floor into a 10-gallon container below to simulate rain.

The cast and crew numbers about 60 students, Luce said. The pit band adds 16 members to the entourage. Half of them are students and the rest are members of the Junction City community, said T.J. Taylor, pit band director.

Michael Castile plays Cosmo Brown,

See Musical, Page 8



Bronx-voiced silent screen star Lina Lamont (right) played by Crystal Palmer, whines about getting hit in the face with a piece of cake thrown by aspiring talkie actress Kathy Seldon while Lina's co-star, Don Lockwood tries to calm her down.

Post/Heronemus



Workshop prepares spouses for Soldiers' return

By Sonya Brown

Directorate
of Community Activities

A team of Fort Riley helping professionals from various community agencies partnered together March 12 to sponsor a workshop addressing sensitive issues and concerns of deployed Soldiers' spouses.

Statistics show that the majority of Soldier and family reunions

are positive and happy events. Another natural reality of post deployment, however, is that many Soldiers and families will experience some sort of stress and readjustment challenges.

In an effort to reduce the negative impact on military personnel and their family members, the Department of Defense directed several agencies to provide support and assistance throughout all cycles of the deployment. Army Community Service and Installation

Chaplain's Office staffers began conducting reunification briefings in January.

"The Homecoming - Preparing for a Safe and Peaceful Reunion" workshop evolved from input by senior personnel spouses and rear detachment commanders and feedback from family members.

Some spouses and Family Resource Group leaders expressed concern about family relationship issues existing before the deployment and deployment-

related challenges that may affect, and in some cases endanger, a spouse or family when the Soldier returns. Others expressed concern about difficulties or re-integration issues the Soldier may have and how those issues may impact their families.

The ACS Family Readiness Center coordinator and the Family Advocacy Program's victim advocate program manager developed the workshop.

The FAP victim advocate also

used the forum to present information on the importance of spouses having and using a "Plan B" in the event of a domestic violence episode.

Other helping professionals from Community Mental Health, the Deployment Cycle Support Program, the Staff Judge Advocate's office, chaplain services and the ACS Employment Readiness Family Program were also

See Workshop, Page 8





Musical continued from page 7

one of the show's lead parts. He tried out for his third production at Junction City High School after seeing the movie in class. He said Donald O'Connor's role intrigued him because the character was funny.

Castile auditioned for that role, got it, and has since endeavored to use a lot of the dance moves and characterization the late actor presented in the movie. Two members of the production staff, Luce and choreographer Ellie Dillon, agree that Castile was the ideal fit for the role and has added an individual interpretation of the part that will stick in the audience's minds.

Members of the cast have been learning dance routines since January, Dillon said. She coaches the Blue Jays Dance Team but had no experience with tap dancing. One of the cast members helped out. Stephanie Taylor has been taking tap dance lessons since she was 3 years old, Dillon said.

Learning to dance wasn't a problem for Castile, he said. Learning to do a back flip was. Castile must do two back flips in each performance. "I still can't do it standing flat-footed," he said. Castile gets a helping hand from two cast members in the wings. They cup their hands and give Castile a boost.

Sarah Auld heads the three-person stage crew. "Singin' in the Rain" is her fifth production as stage manager and perhaps the easiest one for her, she said. "There's not much to move around," Auld said before qualifying her evaluation of the stage hands' responsibilities. "We have to move the big movie screen three or four times from the side of the state to center stage and life it about 2 1/2 feet," she said.

When the curtain falls on this year's musical production, Luce, Dillon, Castile and Auld said they think the audience will leave with some great memories.

Backstage crew

Student director: James T. Craig
Assistant to directors: Ebony Kennedy
Stage manager: Sarah Auld
Director of filmed scenes: James T. Craig
Filmmographer: Brian Hagemester
Editing: James T. Craig and Brian Hagemester
Choreographer of "Duel": Michael R. Milleson
Tap dance assistant: Stephanie Taylor
Props and stage crew: Kacy Smith, Kim Smith, Ashley Rathburn, Whitney Terry, Lindsey Swartz, Clarissa Ramos
Lighting crew: Amanda Lopez, Angel Romero
Sound crew: Ebony Kennedy, Sarah Pearson
Make-up crew: Cast, Ebony Kennedy, Tara Rikoric, Carolyn Facioneki
Ushers: Barbara Brooks, Linea Taylor, Robert Orr, Keisha J. Floyd

Set construction: Sarah Auld, Steven Burch, Crystal Burkett-Frazier, Robert "Bo" Carriaga, Richard Chon, Clayton Commons, Rhianna Dillon, Jessica Garcia, Blake Gerber, Mitchell Gerber, Erin Hosea, Kristen Huitema, William Odum, Patricia Perry, Travis Roberts, Kimberly Smith, Stacy Streeter, Lindsey Swartz, Alan Gibson

Pit orchestra

Flutes: Rima Murphy, Shayla Crane
Clarinets: Heather Smetana, Denae Paulson
Alto sax: Wes Lewis, Luke Wolf
Clarinet and tenor sax: Deb Lewis
Baritone: Cameron Conway
Trumpet: Rick Fulk
Trombone: Mark Ediger, Elizabeth Portillo
Bass: Victor Wong
Drums: Mike Hammond
Mallets/auxiliary: Brandi Walborn
Piano: Mary Louis Stahl

Records continued from page 7

To insure the protection of the medical records for Soldiers who are on permanent change of station orders, an out-processing center will be established at the hospital.

The Soldier will present a copy of his or her PCS orders, and the processing center will mail the Soldier's and his family's medical records to the gaining military treatment facility.

The new policy is not intended to restrict a patient's knowledge of what his or her medical records contains, Lubkeman said. It is to

ensure records are where they need to be when a patient is seen and that everything the caregiver needs to know about the patient's medical history is available to the attending medical staff, she said.

Army regulations limit the number of free copies to one per 12-month period. However the hospital can provide a patient with additional copies for a regulated fee. Any copies for an off-post referral will be provided at no cost to the patient.

In order to accommodate all patient requests for medical

records copying in a timely manner, it is estimated that the hospital's correspondence office staff may need to expand considerably. Currently it can take two weeks to 30 days to complete a request for copies of medical records, depending on patient status.

The new policy could become a demanding task for Irwin's staff to provide these copies, estimated to perhaps triple the current workload.

All patients who require a copy of their medical records will need to give the hospital enough time

to complete the work. All requests will be satisfied according to patient's necessity status.

The correspondence office staff encourages patients to notify them as soon as possible when needing copies of medical records.

Hospital officials ask all patients who are hand-carrying their outpatient and health records to return them to their local military treatment facility during their next scheduled appointment or visit so that they can be available to their provider and be properly maintained.

Workshop continued from page 7

recruited to serve on a panel and provide information on how their agencies could assist family members if they experience a post-deployment crisis.

All support services in the Fort Riley community have banded together in an outreach effort to let Soldiers and family members know that support and assistance is available to them 24 hours a day, every day, during all cycles of the deployment.

Soldiers and family members are encourage to contact one of the support services if they feel they are experiencing any post-deployment challenges.

Help available

- Fort Riley Army Community Service at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264, 239-9435
- Social Work Services - Deployment Cycle Care Management Program, building 602, 239-7208
- Chaplain's Help Line, 239-HELP (4357)
- Army One Source, 24-hour help line, (800) 464-8107

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YELLOW/Welcome Home





Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, March 19, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Sports news in brief

BOSS to host golf tournament

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is hosting the Rusty Club Classic Golf Tournament April 15 at 10 a.m. at Custer Hill Golf Course. The four-person golf scramble costs \$100 per four-player team and includes lunch, cart, green fees and prizes. Mulligans will be available and the tournament will be flighted based on scores. Call the golf course at 784-6000 to register.

Outdoor Rec sets hunter course

Outdoor Recreation Center will offer a hunter education course from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. March 25 and 26 and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 27 at the rec center, building 9011 on Rifle Range Road.

Patrons must sign up for the course at the rec center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays or from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

The class will be limited to the first 30 people who sign up. Patrons must pay a \$10 deposit to reserve a spot in the class. The deposit will be returned when patrons show up on time the first night of class. Children 11 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older.

Rink offers time for family skating

The Riley Wheels Skating Rink offers family roller skating on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$6 per family of six people. Each additional family member pays \$1.

The roller skating rink also hosts private functions, such as birthday parties, unit parties, youth and school group functions and Scout activities for a rental fee.

For more information, call 239-3764.

Eyster Pool plans lifeguard training

Spring break lifeguard training will run March 19-22. Cost is \$75 per person plus the cost of books. The Fort Riley aquatics staff will be looking for potential lifeguards to employ during the upcoming summer swimming season.

A pre-test is scheduled from 4 to 6 p.m. March 19. Classes will be taught from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 20-22, with a final test scheduled March 22.

For more information or to sign up for classes, call 239-9441.

Marathon marks Guard's 20th year

Lincoln All Sport Marathon -- May 2 -- Marathon marking 20th anniversary of the National Guard's participation in the Lincoln Marathon; guard members from all 50 states and four U.S. territories attend recruiting and retention workshops and compete for a place on the "All Guard" team.

For more information, visit the Web site at neguard.com/dcsops/marathon/marathon.htm or www.lincolnrun.org.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Limited volleyball, soccer play begins

By Gary Skidmore
Command Info Officer

The 2004 Spring Battalion Level Volleyball season kicks off March 23 with three matches scheduled to be played at King Field House.

Beginning at 6 p.m., Medical Department Activity takes on 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry.

At 7 p.m., the 1st Bn., 41st

Inf., meets Detachment D, 15th Personnel Service Battalion.

Beginning at 8 p.m., Det. D challenges MEDDAC.

According to Barry Sunstrom, intramural sports coordinator for the Directorate of Community Activities, only three volleyball teams registered for the season.

"Due to the large contingency of folks that we have still deployed, we will only have one volleyball and soccer league," he

said.

Sunstrom said the five-team soccer league will play beginning the week after volleyball begins.

It will be limited to playing one night a week with play continuing through April and tournaments scheduled around May 1.

Sunstrom said that with the number of soldiers returning from Iraq, he anticipates many will be returning for duty about tourna-

ment time and said he would invite those able to muster a team to play in the tournaments.

"Most of the units that are returning right now will be on block leave until the middle of April," Sunstrom said.

"I have been in contact with some already. If they can organize a team, we will allow them to enter the season-ending tournaments," he said.

Sunstrom noted that until Day-

light Savings Time kicks in April 4, only one soccer game a night will be played.

"Since we don't have a lighted soccer field, we can only play one game a night -- at 6 p.m.," Sunstrom said.

"Then we'll play two games a night -- 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. -- on a field in the Forsyth area behind the 24-hour Shoppette.

Volleyball will be played at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. in King Field House.

Season tees off

Custer Hill staff gears up for heavy play

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

A few golfers were swinging at Custer Hill Golf Course on post March 12. The brown Bermuda grass played well, said Pfc. Zach Nelson and Spc. Todd Mutchler, both of the 471st AG Company, a U.S. Army Reserve postal unit training at Fort Riley before deployment overseas.

Nelson has been playing golf for the past two years. Mutchler played for his high school golf team. Both played the Custer Hill course two weeks ago and said it was a challenging course with long fairways.

The course cut back on hours during the winter this past year, said Tom Pettigrew, chief of business operations for the Directorate of Community Activities.

Even so, with the weather sometimes decent on the weekends, about 30 regulars hit the links as often as they can. Pettigrew said, "We had fewer than 120 rounds played in February, but we'll see more play beginning in April. We had 12,002 rounds played last year, up from the previous

See Golf, Page 10



Post/Heronemus
Spc. Todd Mutchler leans backward to coax his ball into the cup on the 18th hole at Custer Hill Golf Course. He and Pfc. Zach Nelson, both of the 471st AG Company, were taking advantage of warm weather to play the back nine on the course.



Post/Heronemus
Golf course mechanic Chuck Rhodes sharpens a mower's blades in preparation for the upcoming golf season.



Post/Heronemus
Assistant Golf Course Manager Amanda Schable waits behind the pro shop counter for golfers coming off the course.

The 18-hole course

Front nine, Par 36:

Hole No. 1, Par 4, pros' tee 445 yards, men's tee 414 yards, seniors' tee 391 yards, women's tee 321 yards
Hole No. 2, Par 3, pros' 199, men's 186, seniors' 174, women's 93
Hole No. 3, Par 5, pros' 567, men's 520, seniors' 517, women's 396
Hole No. 4, Par 4, pros' 366, men's 355, seniors' 339, women's 305

Hole No. 5, Par 4, pros' 420, men's 384, seniors' 351, women's 341
Hole No. 6, Par 4, pros' 378, men's 365, seniors' 334, women's 306
Hole No. 7, Par 3, pros' 187, men's 183, seniors' 172, women's 146
Hole No. 8, Par 5, pros' 515, men's 507, seniors' 469, women's 413
Hole No. 9, Par 4, pros' 408, men's 389, seniors' 374, women's 293

Back nine, Par 36:

Hole No. 10, Par 4, pros' 428, men's 403, seniors' 375, women's 338
Hole No. 11, Par 5, pros' 554, men's 541, seniors' 505, women's 412
Hole No. 12, Par 4, pros' 412, men's 403, seniors' 330, women's 326
Hole No. 13, Par 3, pros' 219, men's 207, seniors' 153, women's 137
Hole No. 14, Par 4, pros' 357, men's

346, seniors' 346, women's 292
Hole No. 15, Par 4, pros' 446, men's 433, seniors' 427, women's 299
Hole No. 16, Par 3, pros' 184, men's 164, seniors' 162, women's 148
Hole No. 17, Par 5, pros' 557, men's 510, seniors' 509, women's 447
Hole No. 18, Par 4, pros' 430, men's 412, seniors' 384, women's 310

Blackbirds begin to show red wings on post



Carla Hurlbert

By Carla Hurlbert

DES, Conservation Division

Spring brings the return of many songbirds and one of the first birds to return from its wintering grounds is the red-winged blackbird. Already Fort Riley is being invaded around its rivers, streams, ponds and meadows as the male red-winged blackbird establishes its territory.

The red-winged blackbird breeds from Alaska east across Canada and

south from northern Baja California to Florida. Wintering grounds range across the United States north to British Columbia.

Males have all black plumage and a thin, pointed black bill. The shoulders have bright red patches bordered on one side by a yellow stripe. Females and juveniles are heavily streaked and dusky brown with a black bill and a brown crown.

On the Wildside:

News About Nature

The red-winged blackbird's length is from 7 to 9 1/2 inches. They have a loud and distinctive call that sounds like "o-ka-leece."

Red-winged blackbirds feed mostly on seeds and insects but also like to feed on small fruits, waste grain and small aquatic life.

They are primarily a marsh bird but will nest near virtually any body of water, such as marshes, swamps and

wet and dry meadows. They occasionally breed in upland pastures. Each pair raises two or three broods a season, building a new nest for each clutch.

Red-winged blackbirds are highly polygamous, meaning they mate with more than one female. Males in dryer regions that have successfully claimed territories mate with two or three females. Where marsh insects may be more plentiful, the usual ratio

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You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil





AAFES unveils new Web site: 'Serving Troops Downrange'

By Judd Anstey
AAFES

DALLAS — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service recently launched a new Web site to provide deployed troops and family members information regarding support downrange. The "Serving Troops Downrange" site can be accessed at website: www.aafes.com/downrange/home.htm.

The site was developed to show troops, command staff and family members what kind of post exchange or base exchange facilities are available at downrange locations throughout Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The site includes information regarding services and benefits available to deployed Soldiers and their families.

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and of generating supplemental non-appropriated funding for military morale, welfare and recreation programs.

"We have communities preparing for deployments and the local commands are asking what kind of exchange facilities the troops can expect," said Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, AAFES commander. "With this new site, military units and family members can be better informed concerning AAFES support when facing deploy-

ment," she said.

The site includes exterior and interior views of contingency facilities with complete information about food and service operations currently available at each location. The main page contains two drop-down menus. One lists specific regions and all AAFES sites within those regions. The other menu offers links to deployment information such as the best value for calling home, Star Card deployment policy and downrange stock assortment.

"I think many people wonder what it's like downrange, and even though this site can only provide a brief glimpse of OIF/OEF PX/BX operations, it offers a good introduction to the support AAFES can supply," said Marilyn Iverson, chief operating officer for AAFES.

Golf

continued from page 9

year," he said.

Pettegrew plays just about any weekend day the temperature gets above 35 degrees and said he's seen quite a few golfers out despite chilly temperatures. The course hosts about 80 percent of its play from April through September, Pettegrew said. The brown grass on the fairways plays about the same as when the grass greens up, he said, and "we've kept the roughs cut down, so that's helped play a little."

The course staff planted Bermuda grass in 1999 and it has filled about 95 percent of the course, Pettegrew said. The nuisance grasses, such as bluegrass, is about gone because of the treatments being used to improve the course, he said.

Once daily temperatures average about 56 degrees, which will be about May 1, the Bermuda grass will green up, Pettegrew said.

The course uses a professional turf manager and the assistant golf course manager trained for two weeks in proper maintenance of golf course fairways and greens. "The course is in very good

Upcoming Events

April 15 - Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers golf tournament

April 22 - Ladies clinic, 3 p.m., \$10 per person fee (includes range balls)

April 30 - Kansas State University Recreation Society Annual Tournament, tee times 7:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m.

May 17 - Garrison Commander's Spring Golf Tournament, sign up at golf course

shape" for the coming heavy use season, he said.

Pettegrew boasts that fees to play the 18 holes at Custer Hill compare favorably with other golf courses in the area.

Daily green fees are \$7 per person on weekdays and \$10 per person on weekends for juniors. Soldiers in grades E-1 through E-4 and for twilight play beginning after 2 p.m.

All other players, including civilians not associated with Fort Riley, pay \$13 on weekdays and \$15 on weekends. Golfers with

Department of Defense ID cards can pay an annual fee, which equals about 40 rounds of play, Pettegrew said.

This year, Custer Hill Golf Course contracted with Rick Glenn, a Professional Golf Association pro, to teach golf lessons and to conduct clinics for a fee.

He will arrange lessons during the week if a person wants to learn to play.

To contact Glenn, call (913) 306-2307 or 239-5412 or send e-mail to rickglenn01@hotmail.com.

Wildside

continued from page 9

is three to six females per territorial male.

In the fall, migrating males leave after the females and are first to return in the spring to set up territories.

Males don't breed until they are two years of age and can secure and defend a territory to mate successfully. Their courtship displays and territorial defenses are identical. They spread their tail and wings, raising their red shoulder feathers, and sing their familiar "o-ka-leece" song.

The nest is an open cup made from marsh grass and reeds and is hidden among marsh vegetation. They will have three to five pale blue eggs with dark brown and purple spots. The incubation period is 10-12 days. Fledging occurs 11-14 days after hatching.

The young eat insects, spiders and snails and can eat their own weight in food every day. They are able to fly by the time they are three weeks old.

Red-winged blackbirds are

fierce defenders of their nests, harassing hawks, crows and other large birds that pass over and escorting human intruders through their territories, hovering close and making angry calls.

The birds face many dangers during their lifetime. Many die before they ever leave the nest because a predator, wind or rain may kill them. During migration they could be snatched by a sharp-shinned hawk.

Other predators include snakes, raccoons or even another blackbird.

After the breeding season the birds gather with other blackbirds in flocks, sometimes numbering in the hundreds of thousands. These migrating flocks will swarm over fields to feed.

Modern agriculture practices have proved to be beneficial to the red-winged blackbird.

During the breeding season they are highly beneficial to the farmer because they are entirely insectivorous.

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Leisuretime Briefs

In Cuba:

Rock-a-thon — Celebration of Czech heritage with entertainment, guest speakers, contests, crafts, quilt show, drawings, auction, and 311 hours of continuous rocking from 1 to 7 p.m. through March 20 in the Cuba Community Hall. For more information, call (785) 729-3631.

In Abilene:

Ida Stover Eisenhower Memorial Quilt Show — Nearly 70 quilts on display from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, through March 28. For more information, call (785) 263-2681 or visit www.heritagecenterdk.com on the Internet.

Celebrating Kansas Heritage Quilt Show — Display of Kansas quilts, demonstrations, merchants mall and silent auction 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 27 and noon to 4 p.m. March 28 in Sterl Hall at Eisenhower Park, 619 N. Rogers St. For more information, call (785) 263-3915.

In Salina:

Smoky Hill Contra Dance — Caller Liz Granberg. All dances taught. No partner or experience necessary. Wear comfortable, casual clothing and soft-soled shoes. Bring water to drink. Lessons 7 p.m. dance 7:30 p.m., March 27, Dance Elite Studio, 146 S. Santa Fe. For more information, call (785) 819-3292 or visit www.kansasfolk.org/contrasalina.html on the Internet.

In Wichita:

Botanic gardens season opening — Reduced admission of \$3 per person 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 20. More than 100 spring bulbs begin their annual display at Botanica, The Wichita Gardens, 701 Amidon. For more information, call (316) 264-0448 or visit www.botanica.org on the Internet.

In Hays:

German Heritage Days — Demonstrations, church tours, lectures, hands-on sessions, German wedding meal and polka dancing 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. March 26-27 at Ellis County Historical Museum, 100 W. Seventh. For more information, call (785) 628-2624 or visit www.haysusa.net on the Internet.

In Yoder:

Parade of Quilts — Dozens of handcrafted quilts of every pattern, color and size from Amish and Mennonite communities around the country displayed in participating businesses through March 31. For more information, call (620) 465-3613 or visit www.YoderKansas.com on the Internet.

Teen Center activities:

Upcoming activities planned by Teen Center staff include:
March 19 — Game room tournaments, 8 to 11 p.m.
March 20 — Trip to Topeka Zoo, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., cost \$5, sign up by March 18
March 22 — Moon Lake cleanup, 1 to 4 p.m.

March 23 — Trip to Cosmosphere, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., cost \$10, sign up by March 19

March 24 — Trip to Topeka mall, 1 to 6 p.m., cost \$5, sign up by March 19

March 24 — Relay races and barbecue, 1 to 5 p.m. at sports complex, cost \$3

March 26 — MST dance, 8 to 10:30 p.m.; swimming, 2 to 5 p.m.

March 27 — Family potluck with Irish theme, 6 to 9 p.m.; high school dance, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222. The center is located at the corner of Thomas Avenue and Longstreet Drive on Custer Hill.

At the movies:

The doors at Barlow Theater open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children age 5 to 11. Children under age 5 are admitted free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

March 19 — Barbershop 2: Back in Business (PG-13)

March 20 — You Got Served (PG-13)

March 21 — Win A Date With Tad Hamilton (PG-13)

March 25 — BarberShop 2: Back in Business (PG-13)

March 26 — Miracle (PG)

March 27 — Catch That Kid (PG)

March 28 — Against The Ropes (PG-13)

April 1 — Miracle (PG)

April 2 — 50 First Dates (PG-13)

'Terminator' visits Guard during training

Army News Service

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger visited the National Training Center and Fort Irwin March 12 to speak to Soldiers of the California National Guard deploying to Iraq.

"I'm here not just as the governor," Schwarzenegger said. "First, I wanted to come here to talk to you and pump you up before you ship out."

To pump them up, Schwarzenegger told the Soldiers of his service in the Austrian army as a tank driver.

He also expressed his love for the military and his appreciation of American Soldiers.

"I have a great love for the military," Schwarzenegger said. "I came over here with empty pockets but big dreams," he said.

"I was very fortunate to go way beyond my dreams. Why I was able to accomplish those things is because this is the greatest country in the world, because it is free; and you help keep the country free."

"The sacrifices you make are appreciated by all of us, not just in California, but all over the United States," Schwarzenegger said.

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, March 19, 2004

Artist to 'shake hands'

Clark tour stops in Manhattan

Special to the Post

Some folks say life is made up of defining moments. Few and far between, these events have the power to shape and ultimately change human lives.

Songwriter and storyteller David Clark makes his living offering chances for change in the form of unforgettable evenings of good music, thought-provoking stories and a journey into the heart and soul of his audience.

After performing all over the eastern United States and California, Clark is on the road again for his 2004 Shaking Hands Tour. He will perform in Manhattan at 8 p.m. March 27 at the Wareham Opera House downtown.

The tour lasts for 70 days and covers 15 states and about 15,000 miles. Almost all the shows will be in old theaters and opera houses.

"Shaking hands is a part of what my shows are about," Clark said about the name he chose for the tour.

"I believe it's vitally important for all of us to make new friends in these days we are living in. These shows I do bring together people from all walks of life who might not meet under ordinary circumstances.

"I, too, will be shaking hands with people everywhere I go, learning more and more about life and the folks of our great coun-

try," he said.

Clark said he chose to perform in old theaters and opera houses 'because they are precious and beautiful, just like older people. They need to be visited just because they are there."

Clark lives in Cochran, Ga., and has been performing with his guitar and original stories for nearly 30 years.

He recently released his ninth album and has written three books. His weekly column is published in numerous Southeastern papers, and his work has been featured on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," Paul Harvey and Mt. Washington Observatory's "The Weather Notebook."

His acoustic guitar music is described as folk music with a Porsche engine.

His stories range from the hilarious antics of Brer Rabbit and Brer Fox to the gripping intensity of being a caregiver for his mother when she had Alzheimer's and finding the magnificence of that task.

His stories and songs are about living life on life's terms, playing the hand one is dealt and finding light in the darkest of shadows.

He talks about the importance of wisdom and friendship, about honor, duty, and hope. His concerts are a place of sanity and joy, and each member of the audience can take that sanity and joy home.

If you go

The show: David Clark, Storyteller and Musician, 2004 Shaking Hands Tour
Where: Wareham Opera House, 410 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan

When: 8 p.m. March 27
Admission: \$15, tickets available at the door or at Glenn's Music, 413 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, (785) 539-1926



Photo by Michael King

David Clark performs recently in the Six String Cafe, Cary, N.C.

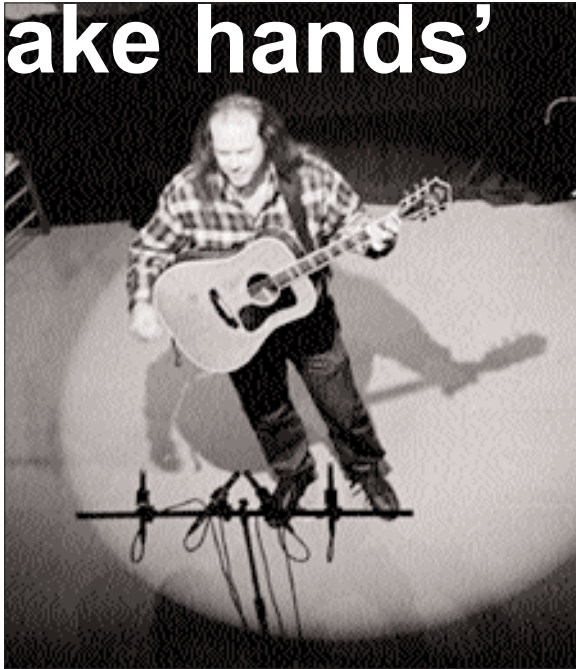


Photo by Frank Hamrick

David Clark entertains recently on stage at Theatre Macon in Macon, Ga.

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